



# How to Migrate Your Healthcare Organization to **Windows 11**

Get ahead of the 2025 deadline with  
a step-by-step migration guide.

# Don't Miss the Windows 10 End-of-Support Deadline

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Windows 10 will reach end-of-support on October 14, 2025. Healthcare organizations that have not transitioned to Windows 11 by then expose themselves to security risks, compliance violations, operational challenges, higher IT costs, and more.

No healthcare organization can afford to compromise itself in this way, making it imperative to meet the migration deadline. But such a transition requires thoughtful planning, organized execution, and measured reporting to avoid the many pitfalls that could result in system instability, data loss, downtime, or the Blue Screen of Death.

This checklist gives healthcare IT and security leaders a comprehensive to-do list that walks you through every requirement for a Windows 11 transition — helping you hit the deadline for onboarding this new operating system seamlessly, securely, and without disruption to everyday operations.

# Complete These Steps to Prepare for a Clean Migration to Windows 11

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## Step 1: Create a Roadmap and Timeline for Your Process

The first step to a successful transition away from Windows 10 is to identify your moving parts and give them a plan of action. Your roadmap should include:

- Which departments and personnel will need to devote resources to the migration.
- Who your project manager will be.
- What milestones your teams will need to hit to make the deadline.
- How long each objective will take.
- How teams should report on progress.
- Responsibility and accountability trackers.

Establishing this plan and timeline is critical for keeping stakeholders and workers clear on roles and expectations for this large project. Consider working with a third party for project management as they are held to different accountability standards than internal staff.

If you're unsure how to begin drafting a roadmap, get a free assessment of your environment from GuideIT to kick it off.

Schedule A Free Assessment



## Step 2: Perform Asset Management

Identify and document all the assets in your organization that need to be upgraded. This step is best accomplished using a centralized tool that tracks and manages assets. Be sure to document all of the following:

- Applications
- Servers
- Hardware, including all devices

You will also need to record the locations of your assets. If you don't have a solution to automate asset management, team members must manually conduct inventory.

## Step 3: Estimate Costs

Once you have your plan and your inventory ready for upgrade, you are better-positioned to estimate the cost of the migration. Consider the following in your budget:

- What will the labor costs be?
- Will you need to purchase any new hardware?
- How will the complexity of your environment impact the cost of this project?  
(For example, if you have thousands of applications to migrate, you'll spend more than if you only have hundreds.)

It may be difficult to accurately estimate the costs of all these project components. Working with an experienced technology consultant can help you pinpoint your budget as they'll be able to shed light on pricing and realistic resource requirements.

## Step 4: Conduct Compatibility Testing

It's essential to conduct testing to ensure Windows 11 is compatible with your devices and applications.

- Define your compatibility requirements.
- Perform application rationalization to detect the compatibility of your application suite.
- Run Microsoft's compatibility tools.
- Set up a virtual test environment.
- Work with your vendors to find out what you can do to update older apps so they can be compatible with Windows 11.

Do not skip this step. If you do, you risk breaking apps and systems during your migration. It's possible you may need to take further measures to make assets compatible that are dependent on older versions of Microsoft. The right technology partner can proactively identify compatibility concerns in your application portfolio.

## Step 5: Establish a Patch Management System

Ensure you have a central tool in place to manage the act of upgrading devices to Windows 11, such as a software deployment solution that pushes out the updates. If you don't have a tool that deploys multiple updates in an automated way, your team will need to plan to manually go into desktops to load Windows 11.

If you do have a tool, take this step to evaluate its capability. Will you be able to push the upgrades through it? If not, you will need to fix your tool prior to upgrading — something a third party can help with.

## Step 6: Implement a Reporting Method

You need a way to show the progression of your migration so you can track which machines have been updated versus which have yet to receive the upgrade. You may need to manually upgrade some devices in the end, so it's important to identify which ones fall into that category and why they do. Additionally, your reporting keeps you compliant.

While it may seem easier to just rely on your IT team for information regarding migration progress, you still need a way to validate that data with some type of organized reporting.

## Step 7: Make a Post-Upgrade Plan

Be prepared to conduct a certain level of analysis after your migration. Include the following data gathering in your post mortem phase:

- What devices, applications, or other inventory items didn't get upgraded and why?
- What risk profile do you now need to put on various apps in your environment?
- What is your security assurance system?
- How will you educate end users on the new system?

Taking stock of your migration status is vital for closing security loopholes and maintaining uptime in the wake of such a tech-heavy project. A partner with deep experience helping healthcare organizations transition operating systems is a key element to your success — including conducting an accurate post-upgrade evaluation.

# Start Your Windows 11 Migration Right With a **Free Assessment**

**GuideIT** has deep experience helping healthcare organizations transition technology systems and perform complex upgrades. We focus on optimizing IT infrastructure for hospitals and healthcare providers of all sizes. If your IT department needs support completing your Windows 11 upgrade, our healthcare experts ensure you achieve a secure migration.

We take every preparatory step off your plate, oversee a disruption-free upgrade, and stay on board to ensure your systems are running the way they should. **Get a free IT readiness assessment** to discover the smartest way to approach your migration.

Schedule A Free Assessment

